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Pinapatnubayan ng Marxismo-Leninismo-Maoismo

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**EDITORIAL**

# The people and youth must confront brazen corruption and repression

The US-Marcos regime is targeting, intimidating, and threatening the people, especially the youth, in the face of growing disillusionment over brazen corruption and repression. Their grievances are being suppressed in the face of extremely slow measures of the reactionary government to hold accountable all those involved in corruption.

Employing its armed minions and security agencies, the regime charged several mass leaders, including student youth leaders who were at the forefront of the widespread anti-corruption actions last year, with "sedition" and "inciting to rebellion". This is clearly aimed at sowing fear among the people, silencing them, weakening their determination to fight for justice, and derailing their plans to continue protest actions.

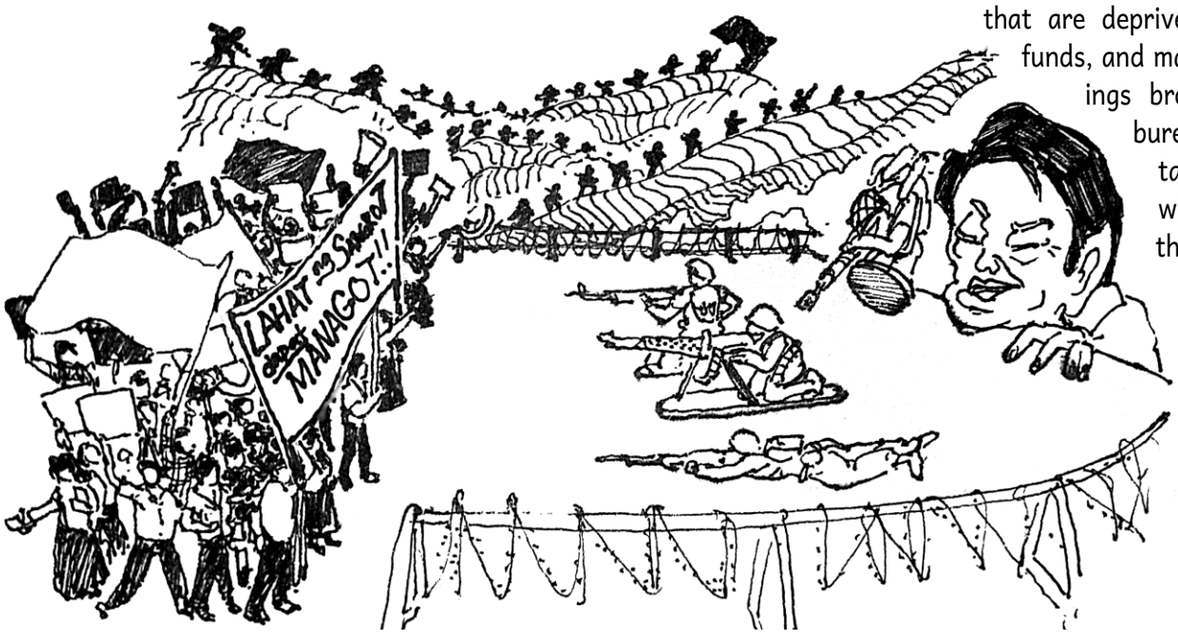
On social media, the NTF-Elcac and the Armed Forces of the Philippines are waging a campaign using paid trolls, including tens of thousands of AFP soldiers, to drown out anyone with critical comments or criticisms of the Marcos regime, especially against military and police abuses. This is being done under the framework of "counterinsurgency," as they view criticism of corruption and repression as part of the propaganda of the revolutionary movement.

Surveillance and repression are intensifying on campuses, either directly carried out by military agents or in collusion with some school administrations. This is a brazen threat to the freedom of academic institutions. Marcos and NTF-Elcac are stifling critical, progressive, and patriotic thinking, historical studies and social investigation, especially among the youth, by branding them as "terror grooming".

Marcos has not learned from history, thinking that he can silence the Filipino people, especially the student youth, through deception and intimidation, in their fight against corruption and abuse by those in power, and in their participation in the struggle to change the semicolonial and semifeudal system.

The protests that erupted in September-November last year, particularly in scores of campuses across the country, reflect the deep-seated hatred of the people towards the ruling system. The youth students' protests were a manifestation of the widespread grievances and anger of the broad masses of the people against corruption and the bureaucrat capitalist system, that lines the pockets of a few, and impoverishes the people.

They gave voice to the millions of Filipinos who are victims of corruption, of floods caused by flawed and graft-tainted flood control projects, of substandard farm-to-market roads and other infrastructure, of decaying social services that are deprived of necessary funds, and many other sufferings brought about by bureaucratic capitalism. Together with the people, they are learning how US imperialism imposed this rotten system on the Philippines, through US-trained politicians and administrators of the reac-



tionary bureaucracy.

The youth and the masses are determined to continue the protest movement against corruption and the rotten government. They know that every moment they remain silent and protests subside is taken advantage of by Marcos and his ilk of thieves to plunder and enrich themselves.

Marcos and his corrupt officials are acting deaf to the widespread protests. "Business as usual," they seem to declare, as they approve the 2026 budget laden with pork barrel funds and new infrastructure projects, such as school buildings. The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is conspicuously rushing to pour billions of pesos for "repairs" on EDSA and other highways and bridges, while the public looks the other way.

The Independent Commission for Infrastructure formed by Marcos is already set to wrap-up its work, despite having yet to achieve anything meaningful, except to create the illusion that Marcos is doing something, and to cover up Malacañang's accountability. Marcos is now using the Ombudsman to silence his political rivals or make sacrificial lambs of some allies who he can no longer defend having been exposed in plunder. Officials closest to Marcos involved in corruption (such as Bersamin, Pangandaman, and others) have been shielded by Marcos from investigations and accountability.

The people are being roused to act and resist by widespread corruption and brazen aggrandizement of a few in the reactionary government, their abuse of power, and the suppression of the democratic rights of the people. The scheduled rallies in the coming weeks are auspicious, including those to mark the widespread rebellion of Filipino youth during the First Quarter Storm of 1970, and the 40th anniversary of the historic EDSA uprising that toppled the corrupt and abusive dictatorship of Marcos Sr. This is a good opportunity for the people to unite and amplify the call: "hold to account all involved."

The people should not tire of exposing all forms of corruption, anomalous government contracts, plundering of the nation's wealth, squandering of public funds, and other means of wealth accumulation by bureaucratic capitalists. They should also expose their accomplices, the big comprador bourgeoisie and foreign capitalists, in the plundering and grabbing of the country's wealth.

In particular, the student youth are challenged to continue heightening the expression of the people's grievances against corruption and the rottenness of the entire ruling system. They should go to where the masses are—in factories, farms, and communities in cities and rural areas—to learn concretely about the harsh impact of corruption and bureaucratic capitalism on the lives of the masses. They should strengthen their commitment and conviction for the broad masses of the people, and dedicate their time to achieving a just and bright future.

The aim of ending the corruption of the reactionary government can only be achieved by fighting to end imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucratic capitalism, the three scourges that afflict the people. This can be done by advancing a democratic people's revolution through a protracted people's war. The reactionary state shall be overthrown, and a democratic people's government will be established, composed of workers, peasants, and other democratic sectors, and representing their aspirations for national liberation and social justice. AB

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# People's protests mark opening of 2026

Various sectors launched successive protests and assemblies at the opening of 2026 to assert their economic and political rights. Actions were held for land and fishing rights, blockades against mining and demolition, and other struggles for livelihood in the first weeks of January.

**Peasants and indigenous people.** Residents of Barangay Bitnong, Dupax del Norte, Nueva Vizcaya continue their barricade against mining despite another attempt by Woggle Corporation and police to dismantle it on January 13. A total of 317 police personnel tried to break the villagers' ranks but failed after more than 50 residents blocked the road. Environmental defenders, church people, and progressive legislators continue to support the barricade.

**Fisherfolk**. The Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (National Power of Fisherfolk Movement in the Philippines) marched to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Quezon City on January 19 to oppose the ongoing dredging and reclamation in several areas of the country. Pamalakaya-Navotas also staged a protest action along the Navotas City shore on January 15 against the 650-hectare Navotas Coastal Bay Reclamation Project of San Miguel Corporation and the Navotas local government.

**Workers.** Members of the San Fernando Coca-Cola Rank and File Union protested at the Coca-Cola plant in Barangay Baliti, San Fernando, Pampanga on January 16. The union condemned Coca-Cola Europacific Aboitiz Philippines for violating provisions of its collective bargaining agreement.

**Drivers and operators.** Piston members protested before the Department of Transportation in Quezon City on January 19 to reiterate their demand to immediately junk the bogus Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Program and to return the five-year individual franchise system. The protest coincided with a mass filing for renewal of individual franchises by drivers and operators who refused to join the consolidation. The group estimated that around 500,000 drivers and operators have already lost their livelihoods because of the failed "modernization" program.

**Vendors and urban poor.** On January 12, around 200 members of Wowee Market Vendors Association marched to the Pasay City Hall to demand the reopening of their market. Instead of facing them, Mayor Emi Calixto-Rubiano hid in her office while her staff played loud music to drown out the vendors' demands. Police even threatened to disperse them with water cannons.

That same day, urban poor community residents affected by recent typhoons went to the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Quezon City to demand the compensation money that the agency was supposed to distribute. Led by Kadamay, they asked for a dialogue with the department secretary but were refused.

In Rizal, organizations under the Taytay Urban Poor Alliance and Kadamay-Rizal mounted a protest action at the Baltao Gate, Ortigas Avenue, Taytay on January 11. They demanded an immediate halt to the Baltao Corporation's illegal fencing off of residents in Sitio Igiban, Barangay San Isidro, Taytay. Around 60 families have suffered from the company's violence.

**Teachers.** The Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) picketed the Department of Budget and Management in Manila on January 16 to demand the release of delayed benefits, push for substantial salary increases, and call for higher bud-

*Continue to page 4*

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gets for regularization and benefits of teachers and education workers.

On January 9, the group also called for the scrapping of the so-called "classroom observation," Result-Based Management System (RPMS), and other performance measurement standards and requirements that burden teachers. They asserted this following the death of teacher Agnes Buenaflor in Muntinlupa City on January 7. Buenaflor's head hit the floor after fainting while undergoing a "classroom observation." She was rushed to the hospital but later died.

At Centro Escolar University, the protests of CEU Faculty and Allied Workers Union continue to demand just wage increases and benefits in their CBA. The union condemned the Department of Labor and Employment for issuing an assumption of jurisdiction order on on January 13, the day of their planned strike. A deadlock in CBA negotiations since September 2025 prompted them to mount a strike.

**Health workers.** Health workers from four government hospitals protested in Quezon City on January 14. They denounced the Marcos regime for failing to release their annual allowances and other benefits. They reiterated their call to increase health workers' basic pay and end contractualization.

**Migrant Filipino workers.** More than 1,000 Filipino nurses joined the strike under the New York State Nurses Association on January 12 in New York City. They were among 15,000 nurses from ten private hospitals under Presbyterian, Mount Sinai, and Montefiore. They called for wage increases, benefits, and protection from workplace violence.

**Youth.** Youth and students welcomed the 2026 opening of classes with protests this January. The actions raised issues of education, academic freedom, widespread corruption, and the US-Marcos regime's fascism. Mobilizations were held on the campuses of the University of the Philippines, Saint Louis University, Far Eastern University, De La Salle University-Manila, Ateneo de Manila University, University of Santo Tomas, Technological University of the Philippines-Manila, and other universities. AB

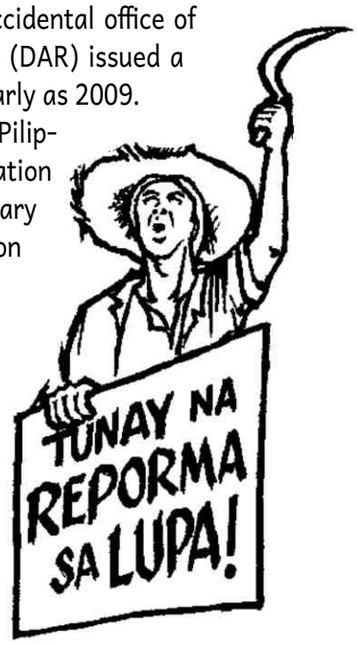
## Farmers in Hacienda Michaela in Negros Occidental defend their land

FARMERS AND FARMWORKERS of Hacienda Michaela in Barangay Talotog, Murcia, Negros Occidental stood militantly against the scheme of Ta-ala Farms, Inc. to grab their 22-hectare farmland. Since January 12, armed guards and company agents have encamped to drive residents away from the land they have long cultivated.

Company personnel aboard three small trucks and three backhoes stormed the hacienda that day. One of the trucks carried armed guards. They set up tents and dug up the farmed land using the backhoes. They terrorized, threatened, and aimed guns at the peasants. They even tried to handcuff three women farmers, injuring one of them. The company started building a wall around the grabbed land on January 14.

Company owner Bonnie Ta-ala is claiming the land, after "purchasing" it from landlord Arthur Bayona. Ta-ala already attempted to seize the land in October 2025 but failed.

According to the Hacienda Michaela Farmers and Farmworkers Association, selling the land is illegal since it was covered by government distribution under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. The Negros Occidental office of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) issued a Notice of Coverage for the land as early as 2009.




The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas-Negros and the National Federation of Sugar Workers picketed on January 20 at the DAR Negros Island Region office in Bacolod City to denounce DAR's sluggish land distribution. The groups said the incident exposed anew the rotteness of the state's land reform program, and the continuing violence of the feudal landlord rule in the country.

Farmers of Hacienda Michaela won broad support from youth groups, artists, and other sectors.

## Negligence caused the Cebu City garbage dump collapse

WORKERS' GROUPS AND environmental defenders condemned the negligence and unsafe working conditions at the Binaliw Landfill in Cebu City on January 8. An estimated 20-storey-high mountain of garbage collapsed and buried the buildings at its base. The landfill is operated by Prime Integrated Waste Solutions Inc. (PIWSI), owned by comprador bourgeois Enrique Razon Jr..

When the garbage mountain collapsed, buildings at its base had 110 workers, 36 of whom were killed and 18 were injured.

PIWSI and Razon are directly responsible for the tragedy because of their deliberate disregard for occupational safety and health standards in pursuit of profit and savings. Barangay Binaliw residents have long complained about the landfill's foul odor emissions and destruction to the surrounding hills and rivers.

# The Party deepens its roots in Negros Island

Guided by the rectification movement, the Negros Island Regional Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines continues to deepen and expand its roots among the Negrosanon masses. In 2025, the committee reported relative progress in overcoming pinpointed weaknesses. Consequently, the Party successfully led the struggles of the working masses and democratic sectors in the cities, towns, and countryside, and strengthened New People's Army (NPA) units across five guerrilla fronts on the island.

**Forging ideological strength**

To consolidate Party members, the committee decisively implemented simple methods of teaching that preserves the substance of education courses. It launched studies on the Basic and Intermediate Party Courses. Campaigns to study the Party Orientation Course and Party Constitution also continued.

Party members collectively studied memoranda and advisories from higher and regional organs that clarify the direction and implementation of plans based on the concrete conditions of the people's war in the island and nationwide.

They read and collectively discuss revolutionary publications, journals, and folios at national, regional, and front levels such as Ang Bayan, Rebolusyon, Ang Paghimakas, Ispading, Ang Budyong, and Ngurob. These helped broaden the ideological understanding of Party members within the army and local mass organizations.

One major achievement over the past year was the summing-up documents written by guerrilla fronts and other Party units and organs. For instance, the Central Negros Front Committee summed up its experiences from 2008 to 2023. This now serves as a guide for leading cadres in drawing up plans.

Guerrilla fronts also completed their respective SICA (Social Investigation and Class Analysis), which became the foundation for mass education, organization, and mobilization. "This is the concrete form of efforts to overcome the weakness of ideological subjectivism in the form of empiricism," the regional committee said.

The committee reported regular assessments and the development of detailed plans to ensure the consolidation of Party units in both rural and urban areas. Alongside these, criticism and self-criticism were earnestly undertaken to further strengthen Party unity.

**Political work**

Conducting political studies raised the masses' political awareness and readiness to struggle. The Party implemented simplified and easy to grasp study courses covering the National Democratic School (Padepa) curriculum, written articles, social investigations, and documents of summed-up revolutionary experience.

The masses in both cities and countryside demonstrated strong unity in 2025. They propelled collective struggles in the countryside for land reform, just wages, and benefits for farmworkers and poor peasants. They led protests in urban areas against the jeepney phaseout, privatization of water services, and the strong anti-corruption movement.

The masses also invigorated their anti-fascist struggle against the US-Marcos regime. Units on the island issued timely statements exposing the lies, psywar, and black propaganda of the Marcos regime and its agents. These were released over radio, newspapers, the internet, and social media.

In armed struggle, five guerrilla fronts under the Regional Operational Command of the NPA (Apolinario Gatmaitan Command) actively maintained operations. The people's militias were continuously expanded as reserve forces for the people's war among the mass base.

The Party and the NPA freely

# Shooting of children in Samar, other crimes of the AFP

Military abuses against the Filipino people continue relentlessly at the start of 2026. Cases of shooting, attempted abductions, the filing of trumped-up criminal charges, harassment, and other human rights violations were recorded since the second week of January.

In Samar, 46th IB soldiers fired an M203 grenade and shot two young siblings in Sitio San Pedro, Barangay 3, San Jose de Buan on the afternoon of January 3. The two were hauling charcoal to sell when they encountered three soldiers who suddenly opened fire at them.

The younger sibling was hit in the chest, hand, and foot and was left at the scene of the shooting. The family never knew of the still missing child's condition. The older sibling managed to escape unharmed.

In Negros Occidental, 15th IB troopers attempted to abduct Joselito Macapore, development worker of Paghidaet sa Kauswagan Development Group Inc. (PDG) development worker, and supporter of peasants resisting the Hacienda Asia Plantation Inc. (HAPI). He was reportedly traveling by motorcycle on January 17 in Barangay Caningay, Candoni when a black vehicle suddenly blocked the road. Macapobre escaped, ran to a nearby house, and sought residents' help. Prior to the incident, 15th IB soldiers repeatedly went to his home and accused him of being a New People's Army recruiter.

Meanwhile, soldiers also reportedly threatened another PDG member Analyn Mirano on January 16 and 17.

Cases of harassment and intimidation have also been reported in barangays of Kabankalan City, Himamaylan City, La Castellana, and Moises Padilla since the second week of January. Soldiers summon residents to pressure them to "surrender."

In Negros Oriental, around 50 62nd IB soldiers encamped for several days at Kambairan Elementary School in Barangay Trinidad, Guihulngan City starting January 6. The same troops also harassed several barangays in Canlaon City.

In Metro Manila, sedition and other charges were filed against Bagong Alyansang Makabayan president Renato Reyes Jr, campus journalist Jacob Baluyot, and 32 others in an attempt to silence and suppress anti-corruption protests. AB

*From page 5*

and consistently carried out revolutionary tasks through diligent, vigorous, and incisive analysis of the military situation. The NPA expanded and increased its area of operation by 33%. Organized mass strength grew by 20%. Organs of political power were clandestinely established in the island's countryside.

The people's army launched 44 tactical offensives of various types. Some of these took place in town centers and areas near provincial capitols. These actions killed at least 58 and wounded 21 enemy troops composed of military, police, counterrevolutionary forces, and criminal elements. Five defensive battles on the side of the people's army were recorded, in which 10 comrades were martyred.

The continued implementation of these tasks facilitated the recruitment of nearly 70% of new Party members across the island. They accept their duties and responsibilities without hesitation, committed to leading the revolutionary movement on the island. AB

## Groups demand release of Chantal Anicoche

PROGRESSIVE GROUPS AND human rights defenders in the Philippines and overseas condemned the 2nd ID for baselessly detaining Filipino-American activist Chantal Anicoche at Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal. They demanded her immediate release and for justice for the victims of bombings in Mindoro.

The military claimed "finding" Anicoche in a pit near the site of its encounter with a unit of the New People's Army in Abra de Ilog, Mindoro on January 1. She was surfaced only seven days after. She remains detained without any charges filed against her. She has been denied access to her lawyer and human rights groups.

Bayan and Migrante chapters held protests at Philippine embassies and consulates in the US, Canada, London, and Australia from January 10 to 19. In the US and Canada, they also held online protests, petitions, and discussions about the situation in Mindoro. Migrante chapters in Hong Kong, New Zealand, Europe, and Thailand, along with international human rights groups, also supported the call.

In the Philippines, progressive groups protested at the Department of Defense on January 8 and 12, and at the Boy Scout Circle on January 9 and 16. Groups also mounted two protests at Camp Capinpin to visit Anicoche on January 10 but were denied entry. Instead, military surveillance assets surrounded and harassed them.

# IN SHORT

**5 years**

spent in prison by activist and writer **Amanda Echanis** on fabricated charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives. She walked free on January 14 after the court's acquittal.

**131**

**Ninja Van** riders successfully returned to work after winning their case against illegal dismissal last year.

**₱39**

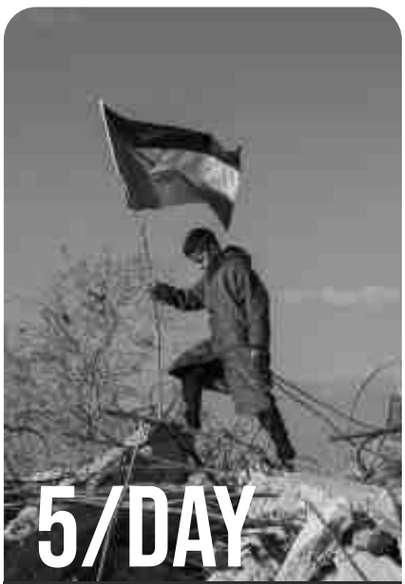
measly increase in daily wages in the **North Mindanao Region**, to be given in two tranches. The KMU said the meager raise as utterly demeaning act of regional wage board against workers.

**32,698**

**police officers were found guilty of administrative offenses** from July 2016 to November 25, 2025. The cases included neglect, corruption, and excessive use of force.

**0.2%**

or only 16 of more than 7,000 applications under Ferdinand Marcos Jr's much-touted amnesty program for NPA, RPA and MILF were approved—proof of the program's emptiness and the reactionary state's indifference for it.



**5/DAY**

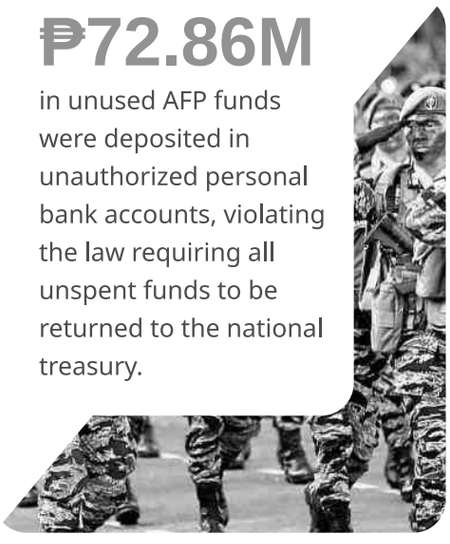
**or 439 people were killed by Zionist Israel in Gaza from the start of the ceasefire on October 10, 2025, to January 10, 2026. These included 155 children and 61 women. The Gaza Government Media recorded 1,193 cases of Zionist forces' near-daily attacks over the 97-day period.**

**$500 million**

in annual aid pledged by the US to the fascist AFP for five years (2026–2030) for repairing military bases and selling its secondhand weapons to the country.

**₱72.86M**

in unused AFP funds were deposited in unauthorized personal bank accounts, violating the law requiring all unspent funds to be returned to the national treasury.



# NTF-Elcac's SBDP in Eastern Visayas rewards fascism

The Congress and the Senate approval of the proposed 2026 national budget revealed that the Marcos regime will pour ₱8.1 billion into the National Task Force (NTF)-Elcac's Support to Barangay Development Program (SBDP). This was condemned by various groups, including religious organizations, saying it is rewarding fascism in the countryside rather than responding to the roots of poverty and armed conflict.

The SBDP was first implemented in Eastern Visayas (EV) in 2021. As in other regions, each "beneficiary barangay" was allocated ₱20 million, later reduced to ₱4.5 million and ₱2.5 million in subsequent years. It was supposedly meant for farm-to-market roads, health centers, classrooms, and livelihood programs.

The 8th ID managed the SBDP under the cover of the Regional Task Force-Elcac. According to Larab's study, the program listed EV's 700 barangays as "beneficiaries" from 2021 to 2025, equivalent to 16% of the region's 4,390 barangays.

For a barangay to be considered a "beneficiary," it must declare the revolutionary movement "persona non grata," form a Barangay Task Force-Elcac, compel residents to surrender, and stage a "peace rally." Retooled Community Support Program (RCSP) units—soldiers and police forces deployed by the 8th ID in villages—decide whether a barangay is "cleared" and eligible for inclusion in the SBDP. The barangay's status is formalized after months or years of continuous or recurring military encampments by RCSP units.

While in villages, soldiers encamp in public facilities such as barangay halls, schools, churches, plazas, and health centers. Even peasants' homes are used as barracks. Residents suffer widespread rights violations including killings, harassment, and illegal arrests. Crops and tools are destroyed, belongings stolen, and communities subjected to "lockdowns."

Barangays under the SBDP are the same ones placed under de facto martial law terrorism. According to Larab's study, at least 569,666 individuals or 131,643 households have been subjected to the 8th ID's military rule.

By the 8th ID's own report in 2020, 1,513 barangays declared the revolutionary movement "persona non grata." This shows the military's coercion and subjugation over civilian governance, and that military rule in the countryside extends beyond RCSP areas. Based on the 8th ID's data, up to one million people may have been placed under military rule in the region since 2018.

**Highest number of violations**

A total of 43,947 victims of human rights violations were recorded from 2018 to 2025, most of them peasants. Barangays with the most violations are also those that received the largest SBDP funds. The SBDP became a "reward" for barangays subjected to military rule under RCSP units.

About 44% of the recorded violations are concentrated in Northern Samar—the province with the most SBDP "beneficiary" barangays (240). Most cases were recorded in Las Navas, which has the highest number of SBDP "beneficiaries."

The 10 municipalities with the largest SBDP funds include Catubig, Catarman, and Palapag. Like Las Navas, these towns experienced severe attacks such as bombings, killings, and forced surrenders.

Samar province accounts for 26% of the documented cases. The town of San Jose de Buan recorded the highest number of incidents of mass harassment. Unsurprisingly, 13 of its 14 barangays were SBDP "beneficiaries."

Meanwhile, 15% of human rights violations occurred in Leyte, and 11% in Southern Leyte. Most were recorded in the towns of Jaro, Sogod, and Bontoc. Cases of detention and harassment of youth, students, activists, and human rights defenders were also documented in cities such as Tacloban.

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*From Larab, January 3, 2026.* AB

# Nuclear plant in the Philippines for US imperialism and the ruling classes

The World Nuclear Supply Chain Conference will be held in the Philippines this May. This is the second gathering organized by the World Nuclear Association that aims to strengthen the global supply for nuclear projects. In November 2025, the Department of Energy (DOE) announced that the Philippines is now open to the construction of nuclear plants. The DOE plans to build the first operational plant by 2032 with a capacity of 1,200 megawatts (MW), which it claims will expand to 4,800 MW by 2050.

Meralco announced on January 5 that it will conduct a US Trade and Development Agency (USAID)-funded study on using a small modular reactor (SMR). It claims this aims to assess the country's capacity for nuclear energy.

In 2024, Pangasinan second district representative and Congress special committee on nuclear energy head Mark Cojuangco proposed the construction of a ₱255 billion 1,000 MW nuclear plant in Labrador, Pangasinan. The congressman boasts that this would help lower electricity rates in the province.

**People's opposition**

Even now, Pangasinenses, church people, and environmental advocates actively oppose the planned nuclear plant in Labrador. They are certain this will damage the livelihood, environment, and health of the people and future generations. Up to 33 Catholic Church leaders have expressed opposition. They held a mass and protest on January 4 in Labrador town, led by the Diocese of Alaminos. According to the Pangasinan People's Strike for the Environment (PPSE), the plant is not a solution to the power crisis. It will instead further increase electricity rates producing huge profits for big business.

As with the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant and hundreds of other major infrastructure projects, this will surely be a bureaucrat-capitalists' source of massive kickbacks and will have substandard quality construction. The government has no safe way to dispose radioactive waste. The proposed site is also vulnerable to typhoons and earthquakes that could cause disasters. Worse, while the people will suffer the plant's effects, the nation will pay debts for decades to build facilities that only foreign and local comprador bourgeoisie and bureaucrat-capitalists will profit from.

**Push of US Imperialism**

The push to open the Philippines to nuclear plants is being driven by US imperialism to turn the country into a market for its companies. In November 2022, the Philippines signed the US-Philippines 123 Agreement for Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation, which ensures US supervision over Philippine nuclear energy "development."

The US claims that expanding nuclear energy production is part of its "national security" policy. According to the US Department of Energy Information Administration in 2018, global electricity use is projected to rise by 50% by 2050 with economic growth, broader energy access, and population increase. As a result, nuclear energy production must triple to meet demand.

The US expects to earn over $1 trillion by 2050 from exporting nuclear technologies such as SMRs. It also seeks to outpace China and Russia in nuclear energy production. Over the past five years, 80% of nuclear projects have been from China, while Russia controls more than 40% production capacity of global uranium, the fuel used in nuclear plants.

Giant corporations are also pushing for SMR construction to meet the growing power demand of

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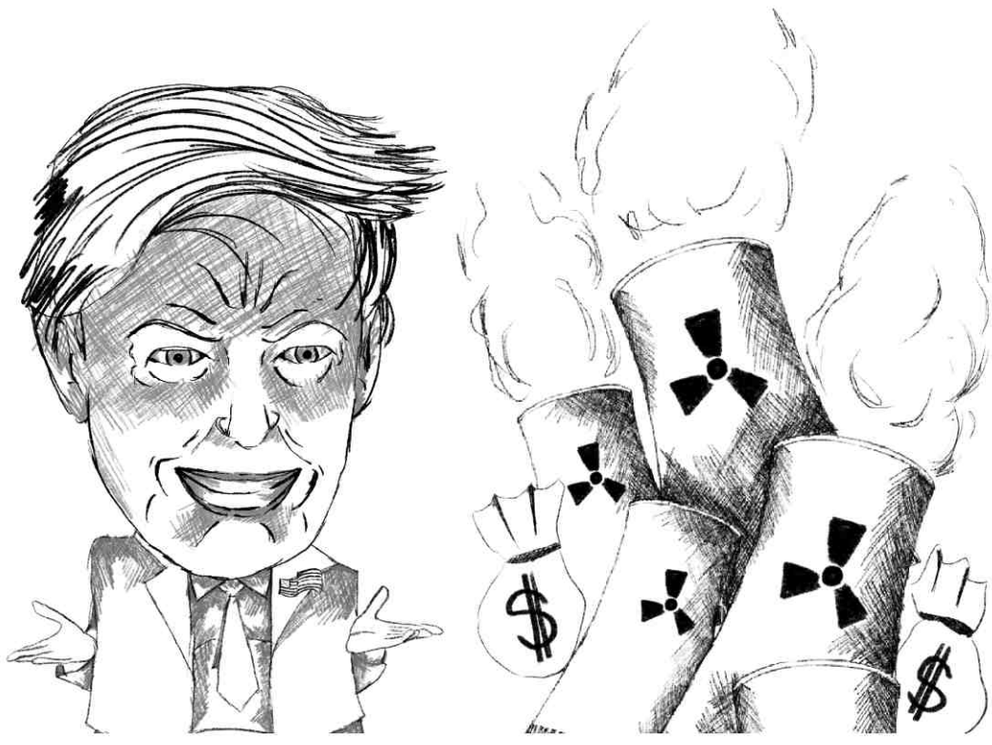
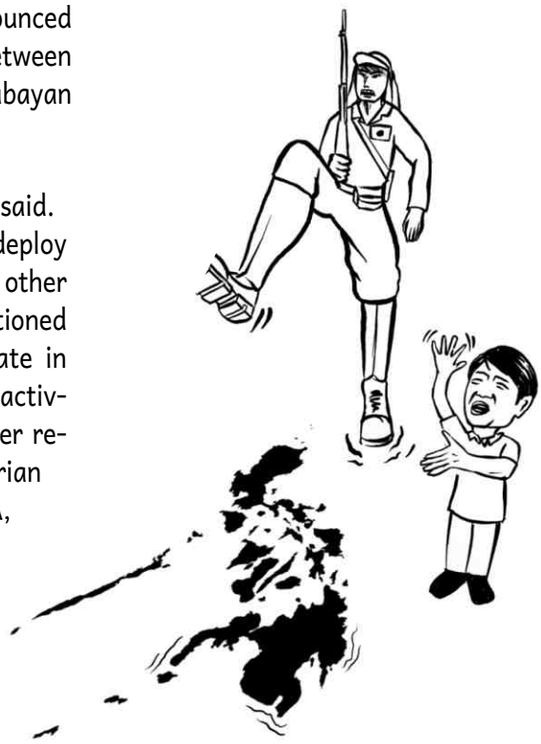


# Philippine-Japan ACSA serves imperialist interests

Progressive organizations in the Philippines and Japan strongly denounced the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) signed between the two countries on January 15. According to Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), this "deepens the imperialist agenda in the Philippines."



The ACSA extends the Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA), which allows the stationing of Japanese troops in the country.

This (ACSA) is not cooperation between countries with equal standing but a binding of the Philippines to Tokyo's remilitarization and Washington's Indo-Pacific strategy that aims to encircle China," Bayan said.

The Asia-Wide Campaign against US-Japanese Domination and Aggression of Asia (AWC) also condemned Japan's intensifying militarism.

"The Japanese government should genuinely apologize and indemnify the victims of Japan's occupation of the Philippines, not heighten militarization," AWC said.

ACSA will allow Japan to deploy food, fuel, ammunition, and other logistics for its own forces stationed in the Philippines to participate in war games and other military activities under the guise of disaster response and humanitarian assistance. Besides ACSA, Japan plans to establish a General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) with the Philippines.

Concurent with the ACSA signing, Japan granted the AFP a measly ₱341-million token Official Security Assistance or military aid, allocated for constructing boathouses for naval vessels. On top of this, Japan gave ₱617 million supposedly for developing telecommunications infrastructure in Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi. AB

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Artificial Intelligence Data Centers. Amazon, Google, Meta, and Microsoft began investing in SMR projects for their operations in 2024.

SMR is a relatively new class of nuclear plants. It is touted as safe, cheaper, and easily mass-produced, despite having no single proof of commercial operation yet. In fact, several attempts to deploy SMRs for commercial electricity production were aborted because of enormous construction costs.

Contrary to claims that nuclear energy is "sustainable" and "better" for the environment than oil, it produces radioactive waste that harms human health (proven carcinogenic). From uranium mining to nuclear plant waste disposal, it pollutes soil, rivers, and seas. Storing and disposing of waste that remains radioactive for thousands of years is also a persistent problem. AB

# Relentless protests for Maduro's return

Continuous and tireless protests are erupting inside and outside Venezuela demanding the US to return President Nicolas Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores to their country. On January 3, Maduro and Flores were abducted by US troops in Caracas and brought to the United States.

Inside Venezuela, daily demonstrations began on the very day of Maduro's abduction and continue to date. The Bolivarian state built by Maduro, Hugo Chavez, and the Venezuelan anti-imperialist forces stands firm and united. Acting President Delcy Rodriguez convened the national leadership, and all branches of government remain fully operational. Even opposition parties joined in, except for Maria Machado's pro-US puppet party.

Half a million people marched in Cuba on January 19 at the funeral for 32 Cuban soldiers killed while defending Maduro and Flores during their abduction. The Cuban soldiers were among over 100 killed by the US in its acts of aggression.

In Italy, tens of thousands marched across 30 cities on January 10 in solidarity with Venezuela and to demand Maduro's immediate release.

India's ten major opposition political parties, including several communist parties, issued a resolution of solidarity with Venezuela on January 12. They condemned the Trump regime's threats against Cuba, Mexico, Iran, Colombia, and Greenland. The groups protested in series across India joined by thousands of workers, intellectuals, and peasants. AB